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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(Case No. 1811)

In re the Application of:

Von K. McConnell et al.
Serial No.: 10/071,833
Filed: February 7, 2002
For: Method and System For
Facilitating Services In A
Communication Network
Through Data-Publication By
A Signaling Server

Group Art Unit: 2143

Examiner: Kyung H. Shin

Confirmation No. 2846

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

In regard to the above identified application:

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By :

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BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

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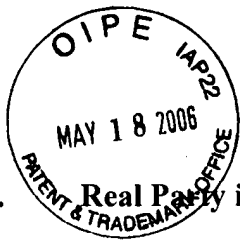
APPEAL BRIEF

Dear Sir:

This Appeal Brief is submitted pursuant 37 C.F.R. § 41.37, within one month from the April 24, 2006, mailing of the Notice of Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Review. The Office is authorized to charge the large entity Appeal-Brief fee (\$500.00) to Deposit Account No. 210765.

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I. Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest is Sprint Spectrum L.P., to which this invention is assigned.

II. Related Appeals and Interferences

Applicant is not aware of any related appeals or interferences.

III. Status of Claims

Claims 1-41 are pending and rejected. A clean set of the pending claims is attached in the Claims Appendix beginning at page 15.

IV. Status of Amendments

No amendments were filed subsequent to the final rejection mailed September 9, 2005.

V. Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

There are six independent claims: claims 1, 3, 12, 17, 26, and 36. These claims are directed to a method and system for conveniently making data available for use by an application server or endpoint application for use in carrying out a communication service. By way of example, the claimed invention may be used to make a group-list (e.g., buddy-list) available for use by a conference-server to set up conference legs with the group members.

Claims 1, 3, 12, 17, and 26 recite the invention in terms of an enhanced proxy server or the like entity that receives and forwards a signaling message (such as a session initiation message) to an application server or endpoint application. According to these claims, when the entity receives the message, the entity not only forward the message to the application, but the entity also extracts pertinent data from a data store and makes that data available for use by the application to carry out a communication service in response to the message.

This functionality is described in the specification, for instance, at page 10, line 22 – page 11, line 8, and at page 13, lines 5-18. Further, at page 16, line 11 – page 17, line 13, the

specification provides some examples of how the enhanced proxy server (“service agent”) may make data available for use by the endpoint application server. Additionally, at page 17, line 14 – page 18, line 22, the specification gives some examples of types of data and application services the invention could involve in practice. At page 20, line 11 – page 23, line 15, the specification then provides some specific examples of how the invention may apply in practice, in the context of push-to-talk (PTT) session setup, multicasting of instant messages, and facilitating voice mail service.

Claim 36 recites the invention in terms of a registration server. In particular, claim 36 recites a method that involves (i) receiving into a registration server a signaling message indicating that a user is online in a communication network, and (ii) the registration server responsively extracting from a data store a buddy-list designated for the user, and the registration server making the buddy-list available for use by an application server in setting up a communication for the user. This method is described in the specification at page 23, line 20 – page 24, line 10, with a SIP registration server and a SIP REGISTRATION message by way of example.

VI. Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

Claims 1-10, 17-19, 21-29, and 31-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,447,150 (Maggenti), and claims 11-16, 20, 30, and 41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly obvious over Maggenti in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,771,639 (Holden).

VII. Argument

1. Response to § 102 Rejections Over Maggenti

The Examiner rejected claims 1-10, 17-19, 21-29 and 31-40 as being anticipated by Maggenti. Under M.P.E.P. § 2131, a prior art reference anticipates a claim only if the prior art reference discloses (expressly or inherently) each and every element of the claim. More particularly, for a claim to be anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102, a single prior art reference must disclose all features recited in the claim, either directly or under principles of inherency. *Kalman v. Kimberly-Clark Corp.*, 713 F.2d 763 (Fed. Cir. 1983). Further, the reference must have described the claimed invention sufficiently to have placed it in the possession of a person of ordinary skill in the field of the invention. *In re Paulsen*, 30 F.3d 1475, 1478-79 (Fed. Cir. 1994).

Applicant submits that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-10, 17-19, 21-29 and 31-40 is improper, because Maggenti does not disclose all of the elements of any of these claims. With all due respect, the various sections of Maggenti cited by the Examiner do not disclose Applicant's claimed invention; further, no other portion of Maggenti discloses Applicant's claimed invention either. Consequently, Maggenti does not anticipate Applicant's claimed invention.

The following subsections explain the deficiency of Maggenti in more detail on separate grounds with respect to various claims sets.

a. Claims 1-2

Of these claims, claim 1 is independent. Claim 1 recites a method that involves (a) receiving into a network entity a signaling message indicative of a network communication, (b) the network entity *responsively* extracting from a data store a set of data usable by an application

server to carry out a communication service in response to the signaling message, and (c) the network entity (i) outputting *the signaling message* for transmission over a network to the application server and (ii) making the set of data available for use by the application server in carrying out the communication service in response to the signaling message.

Maggenti does not teach a network entity that carries out the set of functions recited by claim 1. At a minimum, for instance, Maggenti does not teach a network entity (i) receiving a signaling message, (ii) extracting data that can be used by an application server to carry out a communication service in response to the signaling message, (iii) outputting *the signaling message* for transmission to the application server, and (iv) making the extracted data available for use by the application server.

At best, Maggenti teaches a communication device (CD) that generates a SIP INVITE containing session description information stored by the CD, and that sends the SIP INVITE to a communication manager, and Maggenti separately teaches a communication manager (CM) that receives the SIP INVITE from the CD, that generates a *response SIP message* (namely, a SIP 200 OK message) containing session description information stored by the CM, and that sends the response message to the CD. (See Maggenti, at column 12, lines 3-7; column 21, lines 4-9; column 12, lines 3-7). However, the *response message* (200 OK) generated by the CM in the that scenario is clearly not *the signaling message* received by the CM (or even another form of the signaling message, e.g., with an added via header or the like). Rather, it is an altogether different message. The Examiner has not disputed this point.

In the final office action, the Examiner noted that Maggenti teaches a user database at a CM, that Maggenti teaches setting up a communication session between CDs based on client requests, and that Maggenti teaches that "data from a data store (i.e. database) is utilized to

facilitate communications." (See section 3.1 of the final office action). Yet these facts do not establish that Maggenti teaches Applicant's claimed invention.

For instance, the fact that Maggenti's CM references a user database (*see* Maggenti, at column 17, lines 14-26, cited by the Examiner) when setting up a communication session does not at all suggest having a network entity (even a CM, for instance) carry out Applicant's claim functions of "the network entity responsively extracting from a data store a set of data usable by an application server to carry out a communication service in response to the signaling message" and "(i) outputting *the signaling message* for transmission over a network to the application server and (ii) making the set of data available for use by the application server in carrying out the communication service in response to the signaling message." (Emphasis added).

Because Maggenti does not teach all of the limitations of either of claims 1 and 2, Maggenti does not anticipate either of these claims.

b. Claims 3-10

Of these claims, claim 3 is independent. Claim 3, as amended, recites a method that involves (a) receiving an initiation message indicative of a request by an entity to engage in a communication, (b) responsively extracting from a first data store a set of data usable by an endpoint application to set up the communication session, and (c) outputting *the initiation message* for transmission to the endpoint application and making the set of data available for use by the endpoint application to set up the communication.

Maggenti does not teach a method that involves this set of functions. At a minimum, for instance, Maggenti does not teach receiving an initiation message indicative of a request by an entity to engage in a communication, responsively extracting data usable by an endpoint application to set up the session, and outputting *the session initiation message* for transmission

to the endpoint application and making the set of data available for use by the endpoint application.

At best, in Maggenti, a CM maintains a user profile database, and the CM generates and sends a *response* SIP message to a CD upon receipt of a SIP INVITE from the CD. (See Maggenti, at column 17, lines 8-11, and 14-26; column 12, lines 3-7). Yet the act of the CM sending to a CD a *response* SIP message that contains session description information cannot constitute the claimed invention, because the CD is not the endpoint application to which *the session initiation message* is sent. The Examiner has not disputed this point.

In the final office action, the Examiner asserted that Maggenti teaches the claim limitation of "outputting the session [sic] initiation message for transmission to the endpoint application and making the set of data available for use by the endpoint application to set up the communication." (See section 3.2 of the final office action.) However, the sections of Maggenti that the Examiner cited in alleged support of this proposition teach merely that packets are routed between the CM and CDs, that the CM includes session description information in its *response* message to the initiating CD, and that group communications are based on SIP and broadcast media signaling. None of these sections, or other aspects of Maggenti, teach the "outputting" and "making" elements of claim 3.

Because Maggenti does not teach all of the limitations of any of claims 3-10, Maggenti does not anticipate any of these claims.

c. Claims 17-19 and 21-25

Of these claims, claim 17 is independent. Claim 17 recites a system that includes (a) a processor, (b) data storage, (c) user-profile data stored in the data storage, (d) proxy-server logic stored in the data storage and executable by the processor to receive a session initiation message

and to responsively output the session initiation message for transmission via a packet-switched network to an endpoint application, the session initiation message being indicative of a request to set up a communication involving a user, (e) data-management logic stored in the data storage and executable by the processor, in response to receipt of a session initiation message, (i) to extract from the user-profile data a set of data usable by the endpoint application to facilitate set-up of the communication and (ii) to make the set of data available for use by the endpoint application in responding to the session initiation message.

Maggenti does not teach a system that includes these functions. At a minimum, for instance, Maggenti does not teach a system that extracts data from a user-profile store in response to a session initiation message and makes that data available for use by an endpoint application to which the system sends the session initiation message that it receives. As explained above, the act of the CM sending to the CD a *response* SIP message that contains session description information cannot constitute the claimed function, because the CD is not the endpoint application to which the session initiation message is sent. Rather, the CD is only an endpoint to which a *response* SIP message (i.e., a SIP 200 OK message) is sent.

In the final office action, the Examiner asserted that Maggenti teaches data-management logic executable by the processor "(i) to extract from the user-profile data a set of data usable by the endpoint application to facilitate setup of the communication session and (ii) to make the set of data available for use by the endpoint application in responding to the session initiation message." (See section 3.4 of the final office action.) However, the sections of Maggenti that the Examiner cited in alleged support of this proposition teach merely that a CM references a user data store, that group communications are based on SIP and broadcast media signaling, and that

packets are routed between the CM and CDs. None of these sections, or other aspects of Maggenti, teach the data-management logic element of claim 17.

Because Maggenti does not teach all of the limitations of any of claims 17-19 and 21-25, Maggenti does not anticipate any of these claims.

d. Claims 26-29 and 31-35

Of these claims, claim 26 is independent. Claim 26 recites an improvement in a networked platform of the type having proxy-server functionality to receive a session initiation message and to forward the session initiation message to an application server, wherein the application server then performs a service in response to the session initiation message. The improvement as recited in the claim comprises data-management logic that is executable by the platform, in response to receipt of the session initiation message, (i) to extract from a profile store data usable by the application server to facilitate performance of the service and (ii) to make the data available for use by the application server to facilitate performance of the service.

Maggenti does not teach this improvement. At a minimum, Maggenti does not teach any platform that (i) receives a session initiation message and forwards the session initiation message along to an application server and (ii) extracts from a profile store data usable by the application server to facilitate performance of a service in response to the session initiation message and makes the data available for use by the application server to facilitate performance of the service.

Although Maggenti teaches the endpoint CM application server extracting data from a database to facilitate carrying out a communication service, the CM application server cannot constitute a platform that sends the session initiation message to the CM application server, since the CM application server would not logically send a message *to itself*. Consequently, the

disclosure of Maggenti cannot amount to the invention as recited in claim 26. The Examiner has not disputed this point.

In the final office action, the Examiner asserted that Maggenti teaches the claim limitation of data-management logic executable by the processor "(i) to extract from a profile store data usable by the application server to facilitate performance of the service and (ii) to make the data available for use by the application server to facilitate performing the service." (*See* section 3.5 of the final office action.) However, the sections of Maggenti that the Examiner cited in alleged support of this proposition teach merely that a CM references a user data store, that group communications are based on SIP and broadcast media signaling, and that packets are routed between the CM and CDs. None of these sections, or other aspects of Maggenti, teach the data-management logic element of claim 26.

Because Maggenti does not teach all of the limitations of any of claims 26-29 and 31-35, Maggenti does not anticipate any of these claims.

e. Claims 36-40

Of these claims, claim 36 is independent. Claim 36 recites a method that involves (i) receiving into a registration server a signaling message indicating that a user is online in a communication network, and (ii) the registration server responsively extracting from a data store a buddy-list designated for the user, and the registration server making the buddy-list available for use by an application server in setting up a communication for the user.

Maggenti does not teach a method that involves this set of functions. Rather, at best, Maggenti teaches that a CM receives a SIP INVITE from a CD and processes it to set up a PTT session, and Maggenti teaches that a CD has a list of nets and can update the list through communication with the CM. (*See* Maggenti, at column 21, lines 4-9; column 10, lines 33-40).

Yet claim 36 recites a registration server carrying out the functions of receiving the message, extracting the data, and making the data available for use by the application server. It would be inconsistent and improper to conclude that *the CM* is the registration server for part of claim 36 (i.e., for purposes of receiving a message) but that *the CD* is the registration server for another part of claim 36 (i.e., for purposes of extracting data and making the data available for use by an application server).

In the final office action, when responding to Applicant's arguments, the Examiner asserted that Maggenti teaches the limitations of "receiving into a registration server a signaling message indicating that a user is online in a communication network" and "extracting from a data store a buddy-list designated for the user, . . . making the buddy-list available for use by an application server in setting up the communication." (Quotes by the Examiner; see section 3.6 of the final office action). However, the sections of Maggenti that the Examiner cited in alleged support of this proposition teach merely that a CM receives and processes SIP requests and may process multiple call-signaling connections in parallel, that a CD may contain or obtain a buddy-list, and that group communications are based on SIP and broadcast media signaling. None of these sections, or other aspects of Maggenti, teach the registration server functions recited in claim 36.

Furthermore, when responding to Applicant's arguments, the Examiner did not assert that Maggenti teaches a *registration server responsively* extracting the buddy-list from the data store and *the registration server* making the buddy-list available for use by the application server, as recited in claim 36. Rather, the Examiner only asserted that Maggenti teaches extracting a buddy list from a data store, and making the buddy-list available. Claim 36 recites that *the registration*

server carries out these functions; claim 36 does not recite the functions in the abstract. The Examiner has not established that Maggenti teaches the functions *as recited in claim 36*.

(Applicant notes that, in the original rejection of claim 36, the Examiner asserted that Maggenti teaches the registration server carrying out these functions. However, the portions of Maggenti that the Examiner cited in alleged support of that proposition teach merely that a CM receives and processes SIP requests and may process multiple call-signaling connections in parallel, and that a CD may contain or obtain a buddy-list, which can be updated during interactions with the CM. Again, these portions, like other portions of Maggenti, do not teach the functions recited in claim 36.)

Because Maggenti does not teach all of the limitations of any of claims 36-40, Maggenti does not anticipate any of these claims.

2. Response to § 103 Rejections Over Maggenti and Holden

The Examiner rejected claims 11-16, 20, 30, and 41 as being obvious over Maggenti in view of Holden. In order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness over a combination of references, the combination must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. M.P.E.P. § 2143; *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981 (CCPA 1974). In this case, the combination of Maggenti and Holden does not disclose or suggest all of the limitations of any of claims 11-16, 20, 30, and 41. Thus, the Examiner has not made out the requisite *prima facie* case of obviousness of any of these claims.

a. Claims 12-16

Of these claims, claim 12 is independent. Claim 12 recites a method that involves (i) transporting an initiation message over a radio access network from a wireless mobile station to a packet-switched network, the initiation message being indicative of a request from a user of the

wireless mobile station to engage in a communication, (ii) transmitting the initiation message over the packet-switched network to a signaling proxy server, and receiving the initiation message into the signaling proxy server, (iii) in response to the initiation message, the signaling proxy server extracting from a data store a set of data usable by an application server to set up the communication, and (iv) the signaling proxy server forwarding the initiation message to the application server and making the set of data available for use by the application server in responding to the initiation message.

In rejecting claim 12, the Examiner relied principally on Maggenti for an alleged disclosure of Applicant's claimed enhanced proxy server functionality. The Examiner then relied on Holden merely for Holden's teaching of a signaling proxy server used to proxy session initiation messages.

Applicant submits that Maggenti fails to disclose or suggest the enhanced proxy server functionality recited in claim 12. At a minimum, for instance, Maggenti fails to disclose or suggest that when a proxy server receives an initiation message, the proxy server would (a) extract from a data store a set of data usable by an application server to set up the communication and (b) forward the initiation message to the application server and make the set of data available for use by the application server in responding to the initiation message.

In the final office action, when responding to Applicant's arguments, the Examiner cited to only Maggenti and asserted that the referenced prior art discloses "...extracting from a data store a set of data usable by an application sever to set up the communication..." and "...processing the initiation message in the application server and making the set of data available for use by applications server...." (Quotes by the Examiner; see section 3.3 of the final office action.) Applicant notes, however, that claim 12 does not include the language

"...processing the initiation message in the application server and making the set of data available for use by applications server" recited by the Examiner. Further, the portions of Maggenti that the Examiner cited in alleged support of the Examiner's proposition teach merely that a CM references a user data store, that group communications are based on SIP and broadcast media signaling, that a CM receives and processes SIP requests and may process multiple call-signaling connections in parallel, and that packets are routed between the CM and CDs. None of the cited portions, or other aspects of Maggenti, teach the extracting, forwarding, and making elements of claim 12.

Further, Applicant submits that the secondary Holden reference fails to make up for the deficiency of Maggenti. At best, Holden teaches that a user device can send a SIP INVITE that includes "cover data" defining an announcement, and that the recipient device can present that announcement to a called party so the called party can learn something more about the call than just the calling number. Yet the disclosure of Holden does not make up for the above discussed deficiency of Maggenti. Further, the Examiner has not pointed to any disclosure in Holden that makes up for that deficiency. Consequently, the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness of claim 12 over a combination of Maggenti and Holden.

Claims 13-16 depend ultimately from claim 12 and thus incorporate the limitations of claim 12. For at least the same reasons, Applicant therefore submits that the Examiner has also not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness of any of claims 13-16 over a combination of Maggenti and Holden.

b. Claims 11, 20, 30, and 41

Each of claims 11, 20, 30, and 41 depends ultimately from one of the independent claims discussed above. For the reasons discussed above, Maggenti fails to disclose the invention as

recited in any of the independent claims. Further, Applicant submits that Holden fails to make up for the above-discussed deficiencies of Maggenti.

At best, Holden teaches that a user device can send a SIP INVITE that includes "cover data" defining an announcement, and that the recipient device can present that announcement to a called party so the called party can learn something more about the call than just the calling number. Yet the disclosure of Holden does not make up for the above discussed deficiency of Maggenti. Further, the Examiner has not pointed to any disclosure in Holden that makes up for that deficiency. Consequently, the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness of any of claims 11, 20, 30, and 41 over a combination of Maggenti and Holden.


3. Conclusion

Applicant has demonstrated that the rejections of claims 1-41 are in error as a matter of law. Applicant therefore requests reversal of the rejections and allowance of all pending claims in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

**MCDONNELL BOEHNEN
HULBERT & BERGHOFF LLP**

Date: May 16, 2006

By: 
Lawrence H. Aaronson
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CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. (Previously presented) A method comprising:
receiving into a network entity a signaling message indicative of a network communication;

the network entity responsively extracting from a data store a set of data usable by an application server to carry out a communication service in response to the signaling message; and

the network entity (i) outputting the signaling message for transmission over a network to the application server and (ii) making the set of data available for use by the application server in carrying out the communication service in response to the signaling message.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the communication service is selected from the group consisting of (i) a group conferencing service, (ii) a multicasting service, and (iii) a voice mail service.

3. (Previously presented) A method comprising:
receiving an initiation message indicative of a request by an entity to engage in a communication;

responsively extracting from a first data store a set of data usable by an endpoint application to set up the communication; and

outputting the initiation message for transmission to the endpoint application and making the set of data available for use by the endpoint application to set up the communication.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the entity comprises a SIP user, and the initiation message comprises a SIP INVITE request.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein making the set of data available for use by the endpoint application to set up the communication comprises:
sending the set of data to the endpoint application.

6. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein making the set of data available for use by the endpoint application to set up the communication comprises:
adding the set of data to the initiation message that is output for transmission to the endpoint application.

7. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein making the set of data available for use by the endpoint application to set up the communication comprises:
publishing the set of data to a second data store that is accessible by the endpoint application.

8. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein making the set of data available for use by the endpoint application to set up the communication comprises:
sending to the endpoint application a pointer to the set of data in the second data store.

9. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein making the set of data available for use by the endpoint application to set up the communication comprises:

publishing the set of data on a message bus accessible by the endpoint application.

10. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the communication comprises a push-to-talk (PTT) session, the endpoint application comprises a PTT server, and the set of data comprises a PTT group-list designated for the entity.

11. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the communication comprises an instant-messaging (IM) communication, the endpoint application comprises an IM server, and the set of data comprises an IM group-list designated for the entity.

12. (Original) A method comprising:

transporting an initiation message over a radio access network from a wireless mobile station to a packet-switched network, the initiation message being indicative of a request from a user of the wireless mobile station to engage in a communication;

transmitting the initiation message over the packet-switched network to a signaling proxy server, and receiving the initiation message into the signaling proxy server;

in response to the initiation message, the signaling proxy server extracting from a data store a set of data usable by an application server to set up the communication; and

the signaling proxy server forwarding the initiation message to the application server and making the set of data available for use by the application server in responding to the initiation message.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:

the application server receiving the initiation message and using the set of data to set up the communication.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the set of data comprises a buddy-list designated for the user.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the application server comprises a push-to-talk server (PTT) and the communication comprises a PTT session.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the application server comprises an instant messaging (IM) server, and the communication comprises an IM communication.

17. (Original) A system comprising:

a processor;

data storage;

user-profile data stored in the data storage;

proxy-server logic stored in the data storage and executable by the processor to receive a session initiation message and to responsively output the session initiation message for transmission via a packet-switched network to an endpoint application, the session initiation message being indicative of a request to set up a communication involving a user; and

data-management logic stored in the data storage and executable by the processor, in response to receipt of a session initiation message, (i) to extract from the user-profile data a set of data usable by the endpoint application to facilitate set-up of the communication and (ii) to make

the set of data available for use by the endpoint application in responding to the session initiation message.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the set of data comprises a buddy-list designated for the user.

19. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the communication comprises a push-to-talk (PTT) communication session, and wherein the endpoint application comprises a PTT server.

20. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the communication comprises an instant-messaging (IM) communication, and wherein the endpoint application comprises an IM server.

21. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the data-management logic is executable to make the set of data available by placing the set of data on a message bus accessible over the packet-switched network by the endpoint application.

22. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the data-management logic is executable to make the set of data available by publishing the set of data to a data store accessible by the endpoint application.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22, further comprising the data store.

24. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the data-management logic is executable to make the set of data available by inserting the set of data in the session initiation message that the processor outputs for transmission to the endpoint application.

25. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the session initiation message is a SIP INVITE request message.

26. (Original) In a networked platform of the type having proxy-server functionality to receive a session initiation message and to forward the session initiation message to an application server, wherein the application server then performs a service in response to the session initiation message, the improvement comprising:

data-management logic executable by the platform, in response to receipt of the session initiation message, (i) to extract from a profile store data usable by the application server to facilitate performance of the service and (ii) to make the data available for use by the application server to facilitate performance of the service.

27. (Original) The improvement of claim 26, wherein the session initiation message indicates a request by a communicating entity, and wherein the data that the platform extracts from the profile store is data designated for the communicating entity.

28. (Original) The improvement of claim 27, wherein the request by the communicating entity comprises a request to establish a group communication session, wherein

the data comprises a group list designated for the communicating entity, the group list being usable by the application server to facilitate establishment of communication legs for the group communication session.

29. (Original) The improvement of claim 27, wherein the request by the communicating entity comprises a request to send a communication to a plurality of users, wherein the data comprises a group list designated for the communicating entity, the group list indicating the plurality of users and being usable by the application server to facilitate sending of the communication to the plurality of users.

30. (Original) The improvement of claim 29, wherein the communication comprises an instant-message.

31. (Original) The improvement of claim 26, wherein the platform makes the data available for use by the application server by sending the data to the application server.

32. (Original) The improvement of claim 26, wherein the platform makes the data available for use by the application server by adding the data to the session initiation message that the platform forwards to the application server.

33. (Original) The improvement of claim 26, wherein the platform makes the data available for use by the application server by publishing the data to a data store that is accessible by the application server.

34. (Original) The improvement of claim 26, wherein the platform makes the data available for use by the application server by publishing the data to a message bus that is accessible by the application server.

35. (Original) The improvement of claim 26, wherein the proxy server functionality is SIP proxy server functionality, and wherein the session initiation message is a SIP INVITE request message.

36. (Original) A method comprising:
receiving into a registration server a signaling message indicating that a user is online in a communication network; and
the registration server responsively extracting from a data store a buddy-list designated for the user, and the registration server making the buddy-list available for use by an application server in setting up a communication for the user.

37. (Original) The method of claim 36, wherein making the buddy-list available for use by the application server in setting up a communication for the user comprises:
publishing the buddy list to a data store that is accessible by the application server.

38. (Original) The method of claim 36, wherein making the buddy-list available for use by the application server in setting up a communication for the user comprises:
publishing the buddy-list accessible to the application server on a message bus.

39. (Original) The method of claim 36, wherein making the buddy-list available for use by the application server in setting up a communication for the user comprises:

sending the buddy-list to the application server.

40. (Original) The method of claim 36, wherein the communication comprises a push-to-talk (PTT) session, and the application server comprises a PTT server.

41. (Original) The method of claim 36, wherein the communication comprises an instant messaging (IM) communication, and the application server comprises an IM server.

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

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RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

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